

CITY OF AUBURN
EXAMINING BOARD OF PLUMBERS
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2012

Members Present: Mr. Frank Siracusa, Mr. Bill Orman, Mr. Greg Gallinger, Mr. Steve Bianco, Mr. Carl Castiglione

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Kim Bauso

Frank Siracusa called the meeting to order on Tuesday, October 2, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

Frank Siracusa: Minutes approved from the last meeting. Order of business is...anyone got anything?

Mr. Bianco: I have one thing but I'm going to hold off for tonight.

Mr. Gallinger: No.

Mr. Castiglione: No.

Mr. Siracusa: If nobody has anything then it's on to applications. Anyone have any applications to be accepted here for the Board?

[Two applicants. One for Master's, one for Drainlayers. Board members go into Chambers to review applications. Both applications were accepted.]

Mr. Siracusa: Bill, you have something?

Mr. Castiglione: Hang on. Let me tell them so they can leave. The written exam is this coming Wednesday, the 10th. Be here, at the Codes Office at about 7:30 a.m. I'll take you guys up and tell you about the exam and you'll start the exam at around 8 a.m. It's a four hour exam for the Master's. The Drainlayer's is a one hour. Okay?

Okay, Billy, if you want to talk...

Mr. Orman: John Rossi, when he was here last meeting, we talked about the City taking over the sewer and the water from the mains into the house. Any word? It has been shot down? They're not going to do that? They're not going to pursue even doing the work in the street? Is that right?

Mr. Castiglione: That I don't know. I know they're not going to go on private property.

Mr. Orman: That was a concern.

Mr. Castiglione: Well, they can go in the streets, it's their main.

Mr. Orman: The point that Frank made, if a person has a problem with a sewer line and it's in the street, the City's going to come do the work and the homeowner's going to have to be charged for it. That homeowner is paying the salary of that City worker already, paying for the material that they take from their yard and put in the ground then on top of everything they're going to be charged for the work. And they have to pay for it over a certain amount of time?

Mr. Siracusa: I never thought they charged for doing their own repair work as far as if the main breaks in the street, they charge the homeowner?

Mr. Castiglione: No, not the main.

Mr. Orman: But the lateral. If it's the Y fitting on the main that has their lateral going into it, they charge the homeowner for that.

Mr. Siracusa: That there is double-dipping as far as I'm concerned. Taxpayer's already paid for that.

Mr. Orman: That's not right.

Mr. Siracusa: They're paying on the water bill too, with the taxes.

Mr. Gallinger: They're still talking about it then, in the road?

Mr. Siracusa: Well, yeah, that's their main. That's what they're saying and as far as I'm concerned, their main is their main, it should go up to the curb too. If it's from the curb box in it's a different story.

Mr. Orman: That's when the license takes over.

Mr. Siracusa: I think maybe we should force this with the Councilmen. They're the one who started this. Draft a letter to Council.

Mr. Castiglione: Yeah, I'll give it to John Rossi, he'll hand it to each councilor.

Mr. Siracusa: I could see if the main broke beyond the lateral, then the homeowner should pay for it. To the curblane, that's the cutoff.

Mr. Orman: So is our position going to be anything in the street to the curblane should be done by the City and not charged?

Mr. Bianco: Are we saying we don't want to do the work in the street?

Mr. Castiglione: No, no.

Mr. Bianco: We gotta be careful how we write the letter. I want to make sure....

Mr. Castiglione: Nobody says you can't do the work. We just write it, this is concerning the homeowner paying for work the City does on *their* mains, their laterals. It's the City's stuff.

Mr. Bianco: We need to identify what portion from the lateral of the work, the City's responsible and the homeowner's responsible.

Mr. Castiglione: Right now the way it looks the homeowner's responsible from his house to the main on both. A complete lateral. Meter to the main.

Mr. Bianco: It doesn't matter if it's a 15 inch line...

Mr. Castiglione: Same thing with the water service. His meter to the main.

Mr. Bianco: I've had a few 8 inch lines, or 10 inch lines where the lateral was bad and the customer did get charged for that. That portion of the City main expense went to the homeowner.

Mr. Castiglione: See now, that shouldn't. It's the City main.

Mr. Bianco: I worked with Bruce Ross & Lupien on that project on Throop Ave.

Mr. Orman: It appears there's a gray area...

Mr. Bianco: Carl, if the City were to do the lateral work to the property line, would you be there inspecting that?

Mr. Castiglione: I'm supposed to be.

Mr. Siracusa: I think we've clarified, to the point where the City's charging for this here, where is the taxpayer paying to when it's already on the water bill. We should word something to that effect. Why's the City doing this then we can start arguing over jurisdiction?

Mr. Castiglione: Okay, we'll draft a letter.

Mr. Siracusa: Is there anything else?

Mr. Castiglione: We have another application, gentlemen. [Another applicant for the Master's arrived at 5:20 pm.]

Kim Bauso: Just a little note, the next newsletter will be in November so if anyone has anything prior to then, can you please let me know?

Mr. Castiglione: Want to adjourn back there in chambers?

[Board members go into chambers again to review new application. Third application was denied due to incomplete. Has until 9 a.m. Wednesday to fax in additional information.]

Mr. Siracusa: Okay gentlemen, anything else? Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

